

## PLAN COMMISSION'S FUTURE

In the August 2021 issue of the *Omro Town Crier*, it was reported that a speaker suggested that the Town of Omro Plan Commission be dissolved. A reader asked if that person had the power to make it happen. The answer to that is, by himself, no. This editor was sure that planning commissions in towns the size of Omro were required. After a good deal of research, such a requirement was not found. It is however complicated to not have one. In that same issue it was reported that the state's emphasis on "Smart Growth" in the budget brought about a requirement for planning and that brought about the need for planning agencies or committees. Because the state also established the process for county zoning with provisions to include town zoning, the work of a zoning committee was allowed to be done by plan commissions. The Town of Omro Planning Commission has for over a decade and a half successfully removed a large work load from the Board of Supervisors. For that and other reasons, the Town Chair indicates there will not be a movement by the Board to dissolve the PC.

Here is a quick summary of the research. Clicking on the colored link should take the reader to the pertinent statute. This editor would appreciate input from readers who find more pertinent information toward the establishment of PCs.

Statute 60.62 (4) ALLOWS but does not require a plan commission: [Wisconsin Legislature: 60.62](#)

Statute 60.61 (4) (a) requires towns to have a zoning committee which may be the plan commission: [Wisconsin Legislature: 60.61](#)

Statute 61.35 establishes "Village Powers" which certain towns may use and the Town of Omro does: [Wisconsin Legislature: 61.35](#)

Statutes 59.69 (5) (c) and 59.69 (5) (e) (3) seem to give the towns power of veto over a county zoning action: [Wisconsin Legislature: 59.69](#) Remember that a zoning change is an amendment to the county zoning ordinance.

This editor used the *Town Officers' Handbook*, chapters 26 and 27 and the *Plan Commission Handbook*. While the first is unavailable generally the second can be downloaded through the following link: [Publications - Plan Commission Handbook - Center for Land Use Education | UWSP](#)

## October 18, 2021, TOWN BOARD MEETING

Prior to the opening of the Board meeting a public hearing was held regarding the addition of property into Algoma Sanitary District #1. This property is to the west of the west end of Notre Dame Drive. Keven Mraz spoke on behalf of the District explaining that the costs of infrastructure installations would be borne by the developer and that the district had future plans for the entire forty acres even though, at present, only the new lot would be fully serviced.

During public comment a question was raised as to how the Board made the decision to appeal the court decision on the Ross/Wagner suit without a vote being reported in the minutes.

Another person asked what ordinance 1993-12 covered and when will signage be up for the new speed limits on Reighmoor Road. The final question was about whether the board would go back to projecting material being used during board meetings and if ever they would post on the Town website materials that would be discussed during a Board meeting such as CSMs, and zoning and Conditional Use Permit applications so that people could see what changes were being proposed.

The Board approved a long list of items:

CSM (Certified Survey Map) at 1790 Springbrook Road

CSM west of the west end of Notre Dame Drive  
Addition of that same property into the Algoma Sanitary District #1  
Change of dual zoning on property at 6059 E Scott Street to A-2  
Adoption of a new ward map and approved voting all wards at the same site--town hall  
Renewal of Ambulance Service Contract with City of Oshkosh  
Renewal of snowplowing contract with V Jay Potratz  
Renewal of road maintenance agreement with Winnebago Cuntly Highway Department  
Authorization of clerk to enter into lease agreement for new printer/copier  
Amendment of town calendar for 2022 to move PC meetings in January, April, July and  
October to the Thursday following the usual day

The Road Commissioner reported continuing discussions on potential fixes to drainage problems in Harbor Village. He also announced that when other road work is finished there may be a focus on tree trimming in the Town rights-of-way.

The Clerk reported that Michael Gableman, who is the man hired by State Assembly Speaker Robin Voss to investigate the 2019 elections, announced that all clerks are to preserve records from that election which they are already required to do by State Statute.

The Town Board held a SPECIAL BOARD MEETING on September 30, 2021, in which they went into closed session. No minutes were provided at this point so it is unknown if any motions were passed when they returned to open session.

## **HIGHWAY 21 PROJECTS**

In the July issue this editor reported that the state is planning on creating roundabouts at Sand Pit Road and FF/Reighmoor road intersections with highway 21 with potential work in 2024. Since then, Chris Musha alerted this editor that the state would add a roundabout at the intersection of highway 21 and Leonard Point Road. In the October 6, 2021, issue of the *OSHKOSH HERALD* they report all those roundabouts but with the plan that property acquisition is to begin in 2023/2024 with construction in 2027. They also suggested a WisDOT web resource for the project. Clicking on the following link should get you there:

[Wisconsin Department of Transportation WIS 21- Winnebago County \(wisconsindot.gov\)](https://wisconsin.gov/transportation/wis21-winnebago-county)

## **nextdoor.com**

This editor received a letter with a return address of Ciscel Dr Neighbors, Town of Algoma, etc. from James Richter who lives on Notre Dame Drive, that was intriguing. It was an invitation to sign up for a website devoted to local neighbors. After joining, this editor found that participants included many from the Town of Algoma and some into the City of Oshkosh and some from Town of Omro as well. After posting about the *Omro Town Crier* subscription went up about 8%. This editor is afraid to actually recommend the site but it does present a good set of rules right up front.

## **NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Since there is a large number of new subscribers, this might be a good time to restate that these are not the official minutes of the Town of Omro or official anything. It is just the observations of an old man sitting on his porch watching the world go by. Admittedly, when younger, that old man was a one term Board member and the Chair of the Town of Omro Planning Commission, but now cannot give an official answer to anything.

## **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is issue 10 of volume 2 of the free on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website:

[Town Newsletter \(townofomro.us\)](http://townofomro.us)

If this editor does not know of an event it won't be included in the enewsletter. Please share your questions or thoughts for additional articles.

Reader contributions (ideas, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to [newsletter@townofomro.us](mailto:newsletter@townofomro.us) as can requests to be included in the mailing list.

Please share this with friends and encourage them to add their e-mail address to the distribution list.

The editor is Tom Tuschl.